

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5 are cancelled. Claims 12-18 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 4 and 6 are amended. New claims 21-24 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph;

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that "DNA" is not properly identified in claim 1.

Applicant disagrees. The term "DNA" appears in claims 1 and 2, is fully supported by the specification and understood by those of ordinary skill. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present claims and direct the pending claims toward specific embodiments of the present invention, Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove mention of "DNA" and canceled claim 2. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a):

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Dodds, U.S. Patent 6,730,023 (Dodds '023). Anticipation requires every claim element to be present in a single reference.

Dodds '023 relates to the management of databases related to phenotypic health assessment and genomic mapping and genomic screening of animals. Dodds '023 discusses interfacing with independent financial institutions for automatic real time confirmation of access to the health profile and genetic data services and products provided by or within the described database management system (Dodds '023 Col. 10 lines 8-26). Specifically, "the database 22 maintains the services with a designation associated to determine what health assessment data and genetic data can be browsed by the users" (Dodds '023, Col. 9 lines 60-65). As such, in the context of Dodds '023 services and

products are only related to those related to accessing the databases related to phenotypic health assessment and genomic mapping and genomic screening of animals.

In contrast, Applicant claims in relevant part in amended claim 1 a method of conducting pet death, or pet related transactions over the Internet ... permitting remote users to establish accounts, whereby said remote users may obtain information regarding or order pet death or pet related services from a plurality of associated sources and vendors; and charging said remote users via their established accounts for obtaining information regarding or order pet death or pet related services from a plurality of associated sources and vendors. Dodds '023 only mentions payment for access to the database and lacks any mention whatsoever of providing access to services from a plurality of associated sources or vendors much less charging remote users for those services. Dodds '023 does not anticipate claim 1 because Dodds '023 does not disclose every element of amended claim 1. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Dodds '023.

Claims 4, 6-11 all depend from allowable independent claim 1 and are allowable over Dodds '023 for at least the reasons above. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 6-11 as anticipated by Dodds '023. Similarly, claim 19 has been amended as claim 1 and is allowable over Dodds '023 for at least the reasons set forth above. Claim 20 depends from allowable claim 19 and is also allowable.

New claims 21-24 are also allowable in view of the references of record. New independent claim 21 is a method of conducting transactions over the Internet related to commemorate the passing of a pet comprising, in relevant part, providing at least one computer server for hosting one or more Internet web sites containing information and services related to commemorate the passing of a pet, permitting remote users to establish accounts and obtain information or conduct transactions over the Internet related to commemorate the passing of a pet from a plurality of associated sources and vendors using the established accounts. New independent claim 21 is allowable over the references of record for at least the reasons that none of the references of record relate to commemorating the passing of a pet or for facilitating information exchange or transactions with sources and vendors related to commemorating the passing of a pet. New claims 22-24 that depend from new independent claim 21 are also drawn to allowable subject matter. New claim 22 relates to arranging for payment from remote users via their established accounts. New claim 23 is directed towards an Internet site that enables a user to post or view death notices, obituaries, electronic

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announcements or tributes to a deceased pet. New claim 24 is directed towards having at least one remote user that is the owner of a deceased pet.

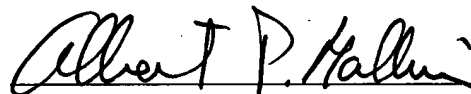
CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicant believes that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that this patent application to promptly be passed to issuance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any question related to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



Albert P. Halluin, Registration No. 25,227

W. Benjamin Glenn, Registration No. 44,713

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050
(650) 849-3330
Client No. 021971